GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7358
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
LEASING OUT MINING OF BAUXITE TO BIG IN BIHAR
BRAJ MOHAN RAM

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Bihar, particularly in Palamu and Lohardaga districts where the Birla Industrial Group (BIG) has been granted lease for mining of bauxite;

(b) since when the lease has not been renewed;

(c) whether at the time of granting lease, the BIG had promised to set up an aluminium factory within a definite time frame at Latehar in Palamu district;

(d) if so, whether the promise has been fulfilled;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to cancel such lease since it has not fulfilled the promise even after elapsing of three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, M/s. Hindustan Aluminium Company Ltd (HINDALCO), a company under the Birla Industrial Group (BIG) have been granted nine mining leases for Bauxite during the period 1973 to 1985 over an area of 4969.14 acres in the district of Palamu, Lohardagga and Gumla. In addition,two mining leases over an area of 476 acres have been granted to M/s. Minerals and Minerals, another company under BIG in Lohardagga districtDetails of the mining leases appended as Annexure.

(b) M/s. Minerals and Minerals were granted mining leases for a period of 30 years in 1965. The renewal applications for these leases are pending with the State Govt. of Bihar since 1995.

(c) HINDALCO had promised to set up an Alumina plant of 10 lakh capacity at Latehar in Palamu district and a Titanium dioxide factory elsewhere in Bihar. The promise was confirmed by their letters dated 16.9.91 and 11.2.92 to the State Government of Bihar.

(d) No, Sir. The Birla Group of Companies have instead set-up a Caustic Soda Plant in joint sector at Garhwa district.

(e)&(f) The State Govt. of Bihar had prematurely cancelled three mining leases in September, 1995 and the cancellation orders of the State Govt. were stayed by the Hon`ble High Court ofJudicature at Patna, Ranchi Benchvide their order dated 29.9.95, directing the State Govt. not to take coercive steps for execution of theirorders till the Central Government passed appropriate orders in the revision application. The Central Government vide its Final Orders No.90/99and 91/99 both dated 15.9.1999 have set aside the cancellation orders and remanded the case to the State Government ofBihar for reconsideration of the matter on merits and as per law. The State Govt. is taking action as per orders passed by the Central Government in this regard.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.7358 for 12.5.2000 asked by Shri Braj Mohan Ram regarding leasing out Mining of Bauxite to BIG in Bihar.

Details of the mining leases for Bauxite granted to Birla Industrial Group (BIG) in Bihar.

A. Mining Leases granted to M/s. HINDALCO

Distt : Palamu

1. CHIRO & KUKUD- 411.00 acres
2. ORSAPAT - 264.00 acres

Distt : Lohardagga

3. PAKHAR - 84.34 acres
4. PAKHAR - 96.25 acres
5. RUDNIPAT - 240.15 acres
6. KARJO, BARCHOMANO - 215.00 acres

Distt. : Gumla

7. SERENDAG - 995.00 acres
8. JALIM & SENAI - 95.00 acres
9. GUADARI & AMBAKONA - 2568.40 acres

B. Mining Leases granted to M/s. Minerals and Minerals.

Distt : Lohardagga

1. SALIAI - 340.00 acres
2. PAKHAR - 136.00 acres